

D. V. Stands

Bedfordshire County Council

---

# REPORT

*upon the*

SANITARY CONDITION  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

*of the*

Administrative County of Bedford

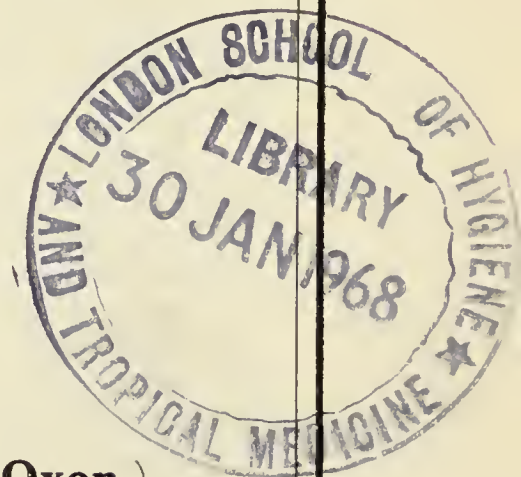
*for the year*

1943

*by*

**CUTHBERT G. WELCH,**

**M.D. (Lond.),** *Degree in State Medicine,* **D.P.H. (Oxon.)**  
*County Medical Officer of Health.*



---

BEDFORD :  
HENRY BURT & SON, LTD.

## INDEX.

	PAGE
Allowances Scheme ... ..	12, 13
Ambulance Service ... ..	21
Ante-Natal Clinics ... ..	15
Area of County ... ..	4
Births ... ..	4, 5
Blind Welfare ... ..	24
Causes of Death ... ..	7, 8
Census (1931) ... ..	4
Day Nurseries ... ..	20
Deaths ... ..	6
Dentistry ... ..	17
Diphtheria, Immunisation against ... ..	23
Diseases (See "Infectious and other Diseases")	
Diseases, Table of Notifiable ... ..	9
Dispensaries (Tuberculosis) ... ..	11
Extra Nourishment ... ..	12
Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil, Distribution of ... ..	17
Food and Drugs ... ..	25
Health Visiting ... ..	17
Immunisation against Diphtheria ... ..	23
Infant Life Protection ... ..	20
Infant Welfare Centres ... ..	16
Infantile Mortality ... ..	6
Infectious Diseases ... ..	9-14
Influenza ... ..	10
Institutions ... ..	18
Mass Radiography ... ..	12
Maternal Mortality ... ..	6
Maternity and Child Welfare ... ..	15-21
Maternity Homes, etc. ... ..	18
Mental Deficiency ... ..	24
Midwives Acts ... ..	19, 20
Milk and Dairies ... ..	25
Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium ... ..	13
Notifiable Diseases ... ..	9
Nursing Homes ... ..	20
Population ... ..	4
Rateable Value ... ..	4
Sanatorium (Mogerhanger Park) ... ..	13
Sick Bays ... ..	21
Still-Births ... ..	5
Tuberculosis ... ..	10-13
Tuberculosis Dispensaries ... ..	11
Tuberculosis Sanatorium ... ..	13
Vaccination, Public ... ..	22, 23
Venereal Diseases ... ..	14
Vital Statistics ... ..	4-8

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

GENTLEMEN,

The subject matter in this Report for the year 1943 has been restricted as much as is consistent with the preservation of the Council's Records of the health of the community in Bedfordshire.

In general, the satisfactory standard of health which obtained in the years 1939-42 has been maintained during this fifth year of war.

The population of the County is estimated by the Registrar General to have decreased by 11,160 persons.

The Birth Rate, in common with that for the whole Country, again shows an increase and is the highest recorded in Bedfordshire since 1922.

The Death Rates for Bedfordshire and for the Country as a whole have both risen during the past year, largely owing to increases in deaths from Tuberculosis, Influenza and Cancer.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, following a marked fall in 1942, has risen to that recorded in 1941.

I am pleased to report that during the period under review, the standard of nutrition of the school children has been maintained at a satisfactory level.

Steady progress continues to be made in the work of protecting the child population against Diphtheria.

There are no changes with regard to the Civil Defence Casualty Services which call for comment.

The Emergency Hospital Services, which have been provided by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, have worked smoothly and I believe to the satisfaction of the Ministry.

I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the good work of the whole of the Public Health staff, who have continued in these trying times to give of their best. It will be appreciated that the work of the Department is made increasingly difficult by the loss of permanent officers to the Services, and the frequent additions made by various Government Departments to the responsibilities of the County Medical Service.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

SHIRE HALL, BEDFORD.

October, 1944.



## BEDFORDSHIRE.

The area of the geographical and administrative County is 474 square miles, or 302,942 acres. Its greatest length from North to South is  $36\frac{1}{2}$  miles and its greatest breadth  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are in addition, five Urban Districts, and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1943, the rateable value was £1,782,448. The Estimated produce of a penny rate for 1942-43 was for general County purposes, £6,888.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### POPULATION.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, on grounds of National security, the table showing district populations is omitted from this Report.

The aggregate resident population of the County, as estimated for the middle of the year 1943, by the Registrar General, was 284,100.

The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525.

### BIRTHS.

The Birth-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1943 was 17.6 per thousand.

In 1943, 4,999 live births were registered in the County. The birth-rates per 1,000 for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years, are given below:—

LOCALITIES	BIRTH RATE				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Urban Districts ...	16.0	14.7	13.9	16.8	18.3
Rural Districts ...	14.2	13.5	13.5	15.8	16.0
Whole County ...	15.4	14.3	13.8	16.5	17.6
England and Wales ...	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5

The County birth rate for the past year is the highest since 1923. The birth-rate for England and Wales also shows an increase.

*Natural increase of population* is the excess of births over deaths and is usually expressed per thousand of the population. In Bedfordshire the natural increase was 6.5 per thousand in 1943; that for England and Wales being 4.4 per thousand.

The live birth statistics for the County districts for the year 1943 are shown in the tables on the next page.

DISTRICTS	TOTAL BIRTHS	LEGITI- MATE	ILLEGITI- MATE	TOTAL BIRTH RATE
URBAN:—				
Amphill ... ..	41	38	3	15.3
Bedford ... ..	912	830	82	17.8
Biggleswade ... ..	122	120	2	17.1
Dunstable ... ..	275	266	9	16.7
Kempston ... ..	162	159	3	20.3
Leighton Buzzard ...	136	126	10	17.7
Luton ... ..	1902	1797	105	19.2
Sandy ... ..	68	65	3	19.2
Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	3618	3401	217	18.3
RURAL:—				
Amphill ... ..	325	311	14	16.3
Bedford ... ..	380	364	16	14.6
Biggleswade ... ..	357	344	13	15.7
Luton ... ..	319	299	20	18.2
Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	1381	1318	63	16.0

### STILL BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate for Bedfordshire, that is to say, the rate per thousand total births (live and still) was 29.3 in 1943 as compared with 32.1 in 1942.

The Still-Birth Rate *per thousand of the population* was 0.53; that for England and Wales being 0.51.

Particulars of still births registered in the County during the last five years, are set out in the following table:—

		TOTAL		LEGITIMATE		ILLEGITIMATE	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Urban Districts	1939	53	47	51	47	2	—
	1940	35	38	34	38	1	—
	1941	57	41	55	40	2	1
	1942	74	47	71	44	3	3
	1943	61	40	58	38	3	2
Rural Districts	1939	22	17	21	15	1	2
	1940	24	21	23	20	1	1
	1941	21	18	20	17	1	1
	1942	18	23	16	22	2	1
	1943	31	19	31	18	—	1
Whole County	1939	75	64	72	62	3	2
	1940	59	59	57	58	2	1
	1941	78	59	75	57	3	2
	1942	92	70	87	66	5	4
	1943	92	59	89	56	3	3



## DEATHS.

The Death-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1943 was 11.1 per thousand; that for England and Wales being 12.1 per thousand. It will be observed that the death-rate for Bedfordshire in common with that for England and Wales as a whole shows a slight increase. The total number of deaths registered in the County, after adjustment for outward and inward transfers, during 1943, was 3,164, compared with 3,106 in 1942. The Death-Rates per thousand of the population during the past five years, were as follows:—

LOCALITIES	GENERAL DEATH RATE				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Urban Districts ...	11.3	12.3	10.5	10.6	11.1
Rural Districts ...	11.3	13.1	11.6	10.3	11.1
Whole County ...	11.3	12.5	10.9	10.5	11.1
England and Wales ...	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1

The recorded crude Death-Rates for the Sanitary Districts in Bedfordshire for 1943 are given below:—

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS	Death Rate	RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS	Death Rate
Amphill ...	19.7	Amphill ...	11.6
Bedford ...	12.4	Bedford ...	10.9
Biggleswade ...	12.6	Biggleswade ...	11.0
Dunstable ...	9.5	Luton ...	11.0
Kempston ...	13.9		
Leighton Buzzard ...	11.9		
Luton ...	10.0		
Sandy ...	12.95		

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 live births and forms the record known as the rate of infantile mortality. The death-rates per thousand of the live births for 1943 are given below:—

Urban Districts ...	42.8	Whole County ...	39.4
Rural Districts ...	30.4	England and Wales	49.0

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were ten deaths during the year associated with child birth, giving a maternal death rate per thousand total births (live and still) of 1.94, as compared with 2.29 for England and Wales as a whole.





## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1943

CAUSES OF DEATH	ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS											TOTALS	
	Urban Ampthill Rural	Borough Bedford Rural	Urban Biggleswade Rural	Dunstable Urban	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Borough Luton Rural	Sandy Urban	U.D.'s, 1943	R.D.'s, 1943			
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	5	1		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	6	1		
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2		
Tuberculosis of Resp. System ...	2	8	18	5	4	10	73	5	1	112	28		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1	5	2	—	2	13	—	1	22	5		
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	1	4	3	—	—	7	1	—	14	5		
Influenza ...	1	7	12	8	3	2	19	4	—	44	21		
Measles ...	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	1	—	3	4		
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio. enceph.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Ac. Infant. enceph. ...	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1		
Cancer, b. cav. Oesoph. (M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Uterus (F) ...	2	7	11	8	—	7	17	2	2	35	24		
Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	3	9	19	10	3	8	26	7	3	62	34		
Cancer of Breast ...	1	3	9	6	—	2	24	5	2	43	16		
Cancer of all other Sites ...	2	27	65	25	10	20	89	19	5	206	91		
Diabetes ...	1	2	2	3	2	1	10	2	1	21	8		
Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions ...	10	32	75	35	7	29	91	14	1	220	110		
Heart Disease ...	15	53	167	58	15	68	212	39	3	487	218		
Other Diseases Circ. System ...	1	2	24	6	1	11	26	3	2	60	22		
Bronchitis ...	2	19	29	12	9	19	41	19	7	107	69		
Pneumonia ...	1	6	17	10	4	6	48	8	1	84	30		
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	2	6	2	4	3	14	1	1	30	8		
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	7	3	—	2	6	1	—	18	7		
Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	—	—	4	2	1	1	15	—	—	22	3		
Appendicitis ...	—	2	5	1	1	2	6	1	—	16	6		
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	4	22	7	1	4	22	5	1	61	20		
Nephritis ...	2	5	13	5	—	7	24	5	—	54	22		
Puerperal and Post Abort. Sepsis	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—		
Other Maternal Causes ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	5	1		
Premature Birth ...	—	1	9	6	1	1	21	4	1	42	12		
Con. Mal. Birth Injuries, Infant.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Diseases ...	3	4	12	7	1	3	22	5	3	48	19		
Suicide ...	—	—	3	3	—	—	7	2	—	12	5		
Road Traffic Accidents ...	—	7	2	6	2	1	10	6	—	20	20		
Other Violent Causes ...	2	3	24	4	3	6	13	6	—	49	19		
All Other Causes ...	3	25	94	43	17	32	121	25	11	290	125		
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES ...	53	231	665	283	90	251	994	192	46	2207	957		



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of cases of Infectious Disease received during the year 1943,  
under Article 14 (2) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

1943	ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS												TOTALS
	Amphill Urban Rural		Bedford Borough Rural		Biggleswade Urban Rural		Dunstable Urban	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton Borough Rural		Sandy Urban	
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	29	254	62	10	36	65	30	11	329	60	10	906
Diphtheria including Mem- branous Croup ... ..	1	2	6	1	12	2	9	2	2	16	9	—	62
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	6
Pneumonia ... ..	—	20	75	26	1	11	4	—	12	79	16	—	244
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	1	9	1	—	2	1	1	—	11	1	—	27
Acute Polio-Myelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	24	—	—	7	—	—	—	25	—	—	56
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—	12
Erysipelas ... ..	1	2	25	4	—	6	—	1	1	24	7	1	72
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	46	3	—	62
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	24	128	35	35	51	2	1	11	218	16	—	521
Measles ... ..	51	262	770	201	96	241	24	68	123	1093	137	—	3066
Pemphigus Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ... ..	63	343	1307	332	154	356	106	103	162	1850	251	11	5038

## INFLUENZA.

The epidemic of influenza at the latter part of 1943 affected Bedfordshire as elsewhere. The disease was of a respiratory type and although in some cases bronchitis developed, there was no great incidence of influenzal pneumonia in the County.

The number of deaths attributed to influenza during the year was 65 as compared with 22 in the previous year.

Problems arose as the epidemic increased. The shortage of doctors owing to war conditions was one difficulty. The Government deferred temporarily the call-up of medical men for the Services and an arrangement was made for Service medical officers to assist general practitioners during the epidemic. In two instances in Bedfordshire such help was obtained.

A second and very real problem was that of obtaining adequate, and in some cases any, help in the home during the patient's illness, on account of the very large number of women being employed on war work. On the 16th December, 1943, a conference was held between medical officers and representatives of the B.R.C.S., St.J.A.B. and W.V.S. to explore the position. A Scheme was drawn up and approved whereby liaison officers were appointed for each of the populous districts of the County to operate the machinery for supplying the necessary help where the need was acute. Fortunately, the epidemic was of short duration and there was no need for the operation of the Scheme, although one heard of many instances where help was given by individual members of the voluntary organisations.

It will be recalled that the epidemic of influenza in the fourth year of the last War was of a much more serious character and in Bedfordshire caused 535 deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 167 deaths registered from this cause in Bedfordshire in 1943, being 5.3 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes, as compared with 144 (4.6 per cent) in 1942.

The following table shows the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis per thousand population for the County and the Urban and Rural Districts:—

DISTRICTS	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Urban Districts ...	0.47	0.52	0.54	0.46	0.57
Rural Districts ...	0.38	0.27	0.34	0.23	0.32
Whole County ...	0.43	0.44	0.48	0.39	0.49

The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis for England and Wales in 1943 was 0.56 per thousand of the population.



The County death-rate from tuberculosis (all forms) per thousand of the population was 0.59, that for the combined Urban Districts being 0.68, and that for the combined Rural Districts being 0.38. The death-rate for the County as a whole during 1943 was 0.67.

The following new cases of tuberculosis were notified, in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during 1943:—

Pulmonary :	Males	...	147	
	Females	...	109	
			—	256
Non-Pulmonary :	Males	...	29	
	Females	...	39	
			—	68
				— 324

The total number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1943 was 9 more than the number notified during the previous year, whilst the non-pulmonary cases also showed an increase of one.

60 other cases (33 males and 27 females) came to the notice of your Medical Officer other than by notification as required by the Regulations, *e.g.*, Death Returns, Inward Transfers, etc.

### Dispensaries.

For Dispensary purposes, the County is divided into three areas, namely, Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

The Dispensaries are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated:—

DISPENSARY AT	DAY	TIME
Dents Road, Bedford ... ..	Wednesday ... ..	2—4 p.m.
St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade...	Wednesday ... ..	11 a.m.—1 p.m.
17, Church Street, Luton ... ..	Tuesday (Children) ...	12—1 p.m.
	„ (Men) ... ..	2—4 p.m.
	Thursday (Women) ...	2—4 p.m.

The number of cases remaining on the Registers of the three Dispensaries at the end of the year 1943 is set out below:—

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	
1943 ...	634	471	204	114	103	165	1691

The number of attendances at the Dispensaries during 1943 (including contacts) was 3,431, and 2,253 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Nurse and the Council's Health Visitors.

All cases on the Dispensary Register are visited from time to time by the Council's Health Visitors, and visits and examinations are made by the Tuberculosis Officers as and when required.

817 specimens of sputum, etc., were examined during the year (positive for tubercle bacilli, 136—negative, 681).

By an arrangement with Dr. H. B. Padwick and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton, X-Ray examinations in connection with the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme are made at this Hospital and at the residence of Dr. Padwick. During 1943, 1,290 such examinations were made.

The Ministry of Health has informed local authorities that X-ray examinations of large numbers of the population are to be undertaken by means of what is known as "Mass Radiography."

The Ministry has provided for this purpose a number of sets of special apparatus by means of which miniature X-ray films of large numbers can be taken, and has indicated the names of six local authorities to whom the units are to be issued in the first instance.

The nearest local authority to Bedfordshire is Northamptonshire which, at the time of writing, has not been supplied.

### **Extra Nourishment.**

As in past years, extra nourishment has been granted to suitable cases, all applications being investigated by a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. Every effort is made to see that the milk supplied is of an approved quality, and wherever possible "Accredited" milk is given. The cost of this service during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, was £952 0s. 11d. as compared with £967 17s. 10d. in the previous twelve months.

### **Allowances Scheme.**

On the 22nd April, 1943, the Ministry of Health, by Circular 2794 and Memo 266/T, outlined the Government's Scheme for affording financial assistance to tuberculous patients who were obliged to give up their work in order to undertake treatment. A report was submitted to the National Insurance Act Committee of the Council on the 3rd May, 1943, for carrying out the proposals in Bedfordshire, which was put into operation forthwith, the first application being dealt with on the 7th June, 1943. One hundred and one applications for allowances were granted during the remainder of the year, the cost of which is met by the Exchequer. Each case has to be considered by the Tuberculosis Officers whose responsibility it is to decide which cases are eligible for grant.



In order to carry out the necessary investigations as to the financial circumstances of each patient for the purpose of determining the amount of grant, the Committee appointed as Assessment Officer a member of the staff of the Public Health Department.

### **Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium.**

Institutional treatment for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is provided at the Council's Sanatorium, situated at Mogerhanger Park. The Sanatorium has accommodation for 73 beds; 37 males, 36 females. During the year 1943, 90 cases completed treatment at the Sanatorium.

It is greatly to be regretted that owing to the outbreak of War it has been impossible to proceed with the building of a new Sanatorium, the plans for which had received the approval of the Ministry of Health. Nevertheless, it has been found possible to give patients, in a large measure, treatment on the most modern lines. In common with other Institutions throughout the Country, the greatest difficulty has been, and is being, experienced both with regard to nursing and domestic staff.

The County Dentists continue to visit the Sanatorium to attend those patients who are found to be in need of dental treatment.

### **Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 172.**

It was not found necessary during the year to apply for any Orders under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### **Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

Cases of tuberculosis of the bones, joints, etc., in adults and children are dealt with by securing their admission to Institutions recognised by the Ministry of Health for this purpose.

Some of these Institutions are at a considerable distance from Bedfordshire, but in cases where the patients are unable to meet the cost of travelling, the whole or part is paid by the County Council.

In cases where the circumstances of the patients make it impossible for them to bear the cost of surgical appliances, the necessary expenditure is met by the County Council.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinics are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated:—

### BEDFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Males:	Mondays to Fridays (inclusive)			4—8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays and Tuesdays ...			6 p.m.
	Wednesdays ... ..			5—7 p.m.
	Thursdays ... ..			5 p.m.
	Fridays ... ..			3—5 p.m.

### LUTON AND DUNSTABLE HOSPITAL.

Males:	Mondays	...	...	...	2—8 p.m.
	Tuesdays	}	...	...	5.30—8 p.m.
	Wednesdays				
	Thursdays				
	Fridays	...	...	...	2—8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	...	...	2—3.30, 5—6.30	p.m.
	Tuesdays	}	...	...	4.30—6 p.m.
	Wednesdays				
	Thursdays				
	Fridays	...	...	...	2—6 p.m.

For the purpose of comparison, the following tables are inserted, showing the principal statistics for each area for the last five years:—

Year	New Cases					Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc.	Kahn Tests	Total attend- ances of all Patients
	Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonor- rhea	Non V.D.	Total			
BED FORD								
1939	15	—	37	30	82	614	62	2616
1940	14	—	58	37	109	784	114	2623
1941	14	—	90	68	172	1278	147	4287
1942	23	—	82	135	240	1434	511	5389
1943	21	—	120	163	304	1485	536	5596
LUT ON								
1939	20	—	103	82	205	694	153	4824
1940	44	—	120	61	225	1223	222	5301
1941	41	—	131	98	270	2238	171	7114
1942	41	—	93	121	255	2378	484	6625
1943	36	—	108	288	432	2248	621	6180



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The population of the area served by the Council for Maternity and Child Welfare services is 131,690.

### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Clinic	Day and Time	Total number of attendances (1943)	Total number of Women attending (1943)	Number of Sessions held (1943)
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms	Tuesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	562	147	26
DUNSTABLE Health Centre, Kingsway	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30 and 2.30	884	228	52
HOUGHTON REGIS Baptist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Monthly) 10.30	444	60	13
KEMPSTON Foster Road	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	260	126	26
LEIGHTON BUZZARD 1 Grovebury Road	Friday (Fortnightly) 10.30	396	106	26
SHEFFORD Council Schools, Ampthill Road	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	270	87	27
SHILLINGTON Congregational School	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30	44	16	26
STOTFOLD Unionist Club	Monday (Fortnightly) 10.30	286	79	24
SUNDON Skefko Sports Pavilion	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	234	49	26
		3380	898	246

In addition to the above Clinics, an Ante-Natal Clinic is provided at the Bedford County Hospital's Maternity Department which is available for the use of women living in the County Area. The Clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30.

1943 was the first complete year of work at the new Health Centre at Kingsway, Dunstable. The facilities afforded by premises planned as a Clinic have added materially to the efficiency of the service and are appreciated both by mothers and staff. At the end of the year arrangements were being made for the installation of apparatus for ray therapy. Owing to war conditions only one-half of the building is being used for the purpose for which it was erected, the other half being occupied as a First Aid Post and Gas Cleansing Centre.

The following table gives details of attendances, etc., at each **Infant Welfare Centre** in the County during the year 1943.

Centres	No. of Infants who attended the Centre for the first time during the year				No. of Infants attending during the year who at the end of the year were				Total attendances of Infants				No. of Consultations with Council's Medical Officer	No. of Sessions held during year
	County Cases		Evacuees		County Cases		Evacuees		County Cases		Evacuees			
	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years		
Amphill ...	73	33	1	1	70	121	1	18	1008	620	23	45	580	50
Arlesey ...	52	10	—	—	41	104	—	5	589	549	—	—	547	24
Barton ...	56	7	—	—	50	128	—	—	1089	1020	—	—	505	52
Biggleswade	116	3	25	7	107	103	20	12	1440	690	204	156	964	52
Caddington	42	6	—	—	35	86	—	1	768	643	—	—	424	48
Clapham	39	5	—	—	28	74	—	3	662	794	—	32	598	48
Cranfield	38	9	—	—	34	73	—	—	338	486	—	—	448	25
Dunstable	265	46	1	1	253	489	1	29	4802	2358	20	27	2703	155
Eaton Socon	52	9	—	18	43	107	—	18	610	555	33	15	488	51
Harrold ...	24	—	—	—	18	26	—	—	419	471	—	—	257	23
Heath and Reach	12	—	—	—	12	34	—	5	68	180	15	5	§	23
Houghton Regis...	57	33	1	—	48	177	1	13	1285	1127	7	6	656	52
Kempston ...	178	34	—	—	153	314	—	9	2345	2420	—	29	1795	103
Leighton Buzzard	116	18	1	—	85	179	1	5	1773	1153	40	22	1298	51
Marston														
Moretaine	24	7	—	—	16	68	—	—	309	586	—	—	580	26
Potton ...	60	2	—	—	42	45	—	—	410	254	—	17	552	26
Ridgmont	6	9	—	—	5	12	—	—	71	88	—	—	§	22
Sandy ...	73	18	8	10	61	92	—	19	928	541	66	56	539	50
Sharnbrook	24	6	7	6	20	54	2	4	425	609	—	—	271	26
Shefford ...	97	28	—	—	82	196	—	12	1389	1012	—	—	641	52
Shillington	28	6	—	—	21	70	—	—	301	222	—	—	438	26
Stewartby	14	5	—	—	11	52	—	—	218	703	—	—	330	47
Stotfold ...	54	11	1	—	48	129	1	11	798	802	—	—	795	24
Sundon ...	65	19	2	—	57	168	1	5	1410	1372	—	5	670	52
Toddington	29	5	—	—	21	63	—	2	475	624	—	18	359	51
Turvey ...	9	—	—	1	9	22	—	1	77	152	—	—	§	10
Woburn ...	11	6	—	—	8	25	—	—	127	224	—	—	§	22
	1614	335	47	44	1378	3011	28	172	24134	20255	408	433	16438	1191

§ The Council's Medical Officers do not attend at these Centres.



## HEALTH VISITING.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by the Council's Health Visitors during the last two years:—

	1942	1943
Visits to Expectant Mothers ... ..	710	773
Primary visits to infants under one year	2,192	2,256
Revisits to infants under one year ...	8,950	9,501
Visits to children between one and five years ... ..	17,904	18,449
Special visits to "orthopædic" cases under five years of age ... ..	9	9
	<u>29,765</u>	<u>30,988</u>

## DISTRIBUTION OF FRUIT JUICES AND COD LIVER OIL.

The arrangements whereby expectant mothers and mothers with children under five may obtain supplies of vitamins, under the Ministry of Food Scheme, at Infant Welfare Centres throughout the County was continued in 1943 without variation. Experience has shown that they are adequate and convenient.

## DENTAL TREATMENT.

Particulars of the work performed by the County Dentists in connection with the Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics during the year 1943 are given below:—

Clinic		Extractions			Fill-ings	Other Operations				No. of Cases Treated
		Anaesthetic		Total		Dress-ings	Scal-ings	Miscel-laneous	Total	
		Local	Gas							
Biggleswade	Mothers	4	13	17	—	—	1	—	1	7
	Infants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunstable	Mothers	—	215	215	33	2	3	4	9	97
	Infants	—	129	129	8	3	7	3	13	84
Leighton Buzzard	Mothers	—	32	32	1	—	1	—	1	15
	Infants	—	9	9	—	—	—	1	1	4
Sundon	Mothers	—	78	78	15	—	2	1	3	40
	Infants	—	50	50	10	—	—	—	—	29
Totals	... ..	4	526	530	67	5	14	9	28	276

Artificial Dentures have also been supplied under the Council's scheme to 102 other patients by private dental practitioners.

## INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

During the year under review 104 cases were admitted to the Maternity Department of the Bedford County Hospital in accordance with the arrangement made by the County Council with that Institution.

Under arrangements made by the County Council with the Luton Corporation 137 cases were admitted to the Luton Maternity Hospital during the year.

The Bedford and County Girls' Home provides accommodation for 16 mothers and their infants. During the year under review 46 cases were admitted. This Institution is maintained by the St. Albans' Diocesan Girls' Aid Association to which the County Council contributes an annual sum of £345 16s. 7d. An annual grant is also made by the Bedford Town Council.

The number of maternity cases admitted to the Council's Institutions during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

INSTITUTION	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Bedford (St. Peter's Hospital) ...	213	270	355	452	503
Luton (St. Mary's Hospital) ...	35	23	47	59	113
Battlesden House (Emergency) Maternity Home ... ..	30	80	222	57*	—
Biggleswade (St. Andrew's Hos- pital) ... ..	—	—	—	—	81

\* Closed on 3.6.42.

The Maternity Department providing accommodation for seven patients at St. Andrew's Hospital, Biggleswade, was opened on 15th June, 1943.

### St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford.

A portion of the new buildings was used for the first time on 7th July, 1943. The ground floor of the completed new wing is being used for male surgical patients (both civilian and Service), and the first floor for female surgical patients. On account of the increased number of maternity cases, the top floor is being used for maternity work pending the completion of the new Maternity Department. The X-ray Department recently established under the direction of Dr. H. B. Padwick has proved invaluable.



## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise midwifery within the Administrative area of the County during 1943 was 76.

The following table shows the number of notifications received from Midwives during the past five years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Of intention to practise .....	95	99	91	86	76
Of sending for medical help....	292	343	339	273	242
Of still-births occurring in their practice .....	11	21	16	9	19
Of deaths occurring in their practice:—					
Mothers .....	1	1	—	—	—
Infants .....	7	12	5	2	2
Of laying out the dead.....	9	21	7	24	9
Of liability to be a source of infection.....	12	11	9	20	16
Totals.....	427	508	467	414	364

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*—No cases were notified by Midwives during 1943.

*Ophthalmia.*—During 1943, 16 cases were reported.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—Three cases occurred in midwives' practices during 1943. In each case as the result of treatment the vision was unimpaired.

### Inspection of Midwives.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the County Council Inspectors of Midwives during 1943, as compared with the previous four years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Routine visits of inspection	190	252	176	167	185
Visits paid but midwives not at home ... ..	26	44	15	62	55
Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ...	408	421	291	311	290
Other visits and enquiries..	147	159	105	83	51
Totals ... ..	771	876	587	623	581

Statistics with regard to the number of Midwives practising in the County Area and the number of cases attended are given on the following page:—

	No. of Midwives practising at end of 1943	Return of Cases attended during 1943		
		Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
(a) Employed by the Council:				
As Midwives ... ..	11	—	446	446
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	—	118	118
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :				
As Midwives ... ..	53	655	—	655
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	472	—	472
(c) In private practice:				
As Midwives ... ..	12	51	29	80
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	83	56	139
Totals As Midwives ...	76	706	475	1181
As Maternity Nurses	—	555	174	729

During the year 196 claims under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, were received from doctors, amounting to £378 2s. 3d. The sum of £135 7s. 6d. was recovered from patients during the year.

### NURSING HOMES.

On 31st December, 1943, the number of premises registered in the Council's area was five (as Maternity Homes four, as a Nursing Home one), providing a total accommodation of 9 beds for maternity cases and 24 for surgical and medical cases.

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1943, 226 visits (25 of which were primary visits) were made to children under the age of nine who are being maintained for reward apart from their parents or relatives.

### WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES

The average daily attendances at the four County Council Day Nurseries during the year 1943 are recorded below:—

Biggleswade (accommodation for 50 children) ...	25
Dunstable—	
West Street (accommodation for 40 children)	23
Luton Road (accommodation for 80 children)	33*
Douglas Crescent (accommodation for 40 children) ... ..	24†
Leighton Buzzard (accommodation for 50 children)	28
Toddington (accommodation for 20 children) ...	8

\* Opened 14th April, 1943

† Opened 31st May, 1943

In addition, The Queen's Park Day Nursery, evacuated from Paddington, remains at Bromhall Hall and a Nursery Party at Ickwell Bury.



## SICK BAYS

The provision made for the institutional treatment of evacuated children suffering from minor illnesses by the establishment of a Sick Bay with accommodation for 17 patients at The Rectory, Clophill, was continued in 1943. The use of "Homewood," Aspley Heath, with accommodation for 20 patients during the winter months was discontinued on 15th April, 1943.

Forty-nine patients were admitted to the Clophill Sick Bay, and 27 to "Homewood" Sick Bay, Aspley Heath.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulances are provided in the County as follows:—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Number of Ambulances</i>	<i>Station</i>
Luton Corporation ...	3	Police Headquarters, Dunstable Place, Luton.
Bedford Corporation ...	1	C.D. Ambulance Depot, Newnham, Bedford.
Biggleswade Urban and Rural District Councils	1	Mantle's Garages, Ltd., London Road, Biggleswade.
B.R.C.S. (Dunstable) ...	1	Scott & Sons Garage, High Street South, Dunstable.
St. John Amb. Brigade (Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and Wing)	1	Buckmaster Garages, Ltd., 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard.
Bedfordshire County Council	1	St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford.
Do. ...	1	St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.
Do. ...	1	Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium (for tuberculous patients).

In addition to the above, the London Brick Company has provided an ambulance for its Stewartby Works.

There are also four ambulances for the conveyance of cases of infectious disease stationed at the various Isolation Hospitals in the County, and one trailer ambulance owned by the Bedfordshire County Council for the conveyance of small-pox cases.

Considerable use has been, and is being, made of Civil Defence ambulances stationed in the various parts of the County, particularly in the Bedford and Ampthill districts.

# **PUBLIC VACCINATION, 1943.**

The following Statistics for the whole County have been compiled from the Monthly Returns of the Vaccination Officers.

VACCINATION DISTRICT									
	BEDFORD	BIGGLES- WADE	AMPTHILL	WOBURN	LUTON	DUN- STABLE	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	WYM- INGTON	TOTALS
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/42 ...	1631	240	147	267	1580	149	36	3	4053
No. of children shown on Birth Sheets received during 1943 ...	1744	347	171	102	2366	188	144	20	5082
Successfully Vaccinated ...	3375	587	318	369	3946	337	180	23	9135
Insusceptible of Vaccination	459	62	19	26	624	31	25	6	1252
Died Unvaccinated ...	20	4	1	—	7	1	—	—	33
Declarations of Conscien- tious Objection ...	54	7	6	—	73	7	2	1	150
	976	230	138	63	1469	128	110	14	3128
	1509	303	164	89	2173	167	137	21	4563
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/43 ...	1866	284	154	280	1773	170	43	2	4572



It will be observed from the foregoing table that during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1943, 5,082 births were entered on the Births Lists received by the Vaccination Officers, which, together with the number outstanding from the previous year (4,053), made a total of 9,135.

Of this number, 1,252 were successfully vaccinated, and declarations of conscientious objection were made in respect of 3,128 infants. Of the remainder, 150 died unvaccinated; 33 were found to be insusceptible of vaccination; and 4,572 had either left the County or were otherwise outstanding at the end of the year.

In order to obtain as accurate a figure as possible to represent the percentage of children vaccinated in the County, the records in respect of the births returned for the previous twelve months have been examined. From 1st January, 1942, to 31st December, 1942, 5,074 births were returned. By the end of January, 1944, these births had been accounted for as follows:—

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	1112
Insusceptible of vaccination		...	...	28
Number in respect of whom Declarations of conscientious objection were made	...			3,115
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	168
Vaccination postponed	...	...	...	43
Cases outstanding	...	...	...	608
				<hr/>
				5,074
				<hr/>

It will therefore be seen that of the births dealt with, only 26.79% were vaccinated, although a higher proportion than in any previous year. With regard to the remaining 73.21% the parents declined to allow vaccination on the grounds of conscientious objection.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During 1943, 6,722 children have been immunised against diphtheria in connection with the Government Scheme in Bedfordshire.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

82 male defectives and 93 female defectives, for whose maintenance the Bedfordshire County Council is responsible, were detained in Certified Institutions at 31st December, 1943, 13 males and 15 females being on licence from such Institutions.

Nine male and 14 female defectives were under Guardianship and one female was on licence from Guardianship.

## BLIND WELFARE

Arrangements made for the administration of the Blind Persons Act have been included in previous reports and are therefore omitted from this report.

A Register is kept by the Clerk of the Council of all blind persons in the County.

On March 31st, 1943, there were 467 registered blind persons residing in the County.

During the year 57 cases were removed from the Register and 36 cases were added to the Register.

The number of cases on the Register on the 31st March, 1944, was therefore 446.

The ages and sexes of these 446 blind persons are as follows:—

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
0—4	...	...	...	1	—
5—16	...	...	...	6	4
17—21	...	...	...	4	1
22—40	...	...	...	30	16
41—50	...	...	...	37	18
51—65	...	...	...	50	61
66—70	...	...	...	24	33
71 and over	...	...	...	55	106
Total	...	...	...	207	239

The numbers were distributed as follows:—

North Beds.	...	...	...	163
South Beds	...	...	...	283



## MILK AND DAIRIES—FOOD AND DRUGS.

As stated in previous Reports, this work is being carried on by temporary staff in the absence of the County Sanitary Inspector and Sampling Officer who is serving with His Majesty's Forces abroad.

On 31st December, 1943, 14 farms in the County were licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and 131 "Accredited" Milk.

Particulars of the results of Bacteriological Examinations of milk samples taken during 1943 are set out below:—

	1943
Milk produced by designated herds:—	
Satisfactory ... ..	240
Unsatisfactory ... ..	213
Total ... ..	<u>453</u>

Milk produced by other herds, <i>viz.</i> , Applicants for licences, Suppliers to Schools, etc.:—	
Satisfactory ... ..	30
Unsatisfactory ... ..	35
Total ... ..	<u>65</u>

### Sampling under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

	1943
Milk:—	
Genuine ... ..	142
Adulterated ... ..	30
Total ... ..	<u>172</u>
Other Foods and Drugs:—	
Genuine ... ..	1296
Adulterated ... ..	5
Total ... ..	<u>1301</u>
	<u>1473</u>











9/2/06

